

RABIES

Human rabies is an acute viral illness of the central nervous system. The disease almost always progresses to coma or death within ten days of the first symptom. Death is usually due to respiratory paralysis. Onset is often heralded by a sense of apprehension, headache, fever, malaise and indefinite sensory changes at the site of a preceding animal bite.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation (Human):

- Detection by direct fluorescent antibody of viral antigens in a clinical specimen (preferably the brain or the nerves surrounding hair follicles in the nape of the neck), **OR**
- Isolation (in cell culture or in a laboratory animal) of rabies virus from saliva, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) or central nervous system tissue, **OR**
- Identification of a rabies-neutralizing antibody titer ≥ 5 (complete neutralization) in the serum or CSF of an unvaccinated person.

Two cases of human rabies have been reported in Kentucky since 1979, the most recent in 1996 in a south central Kentucky woman who died as a result of rabies. The investigation indicated that a bat bite was the probable source of exposure.¹ Aggressive immunization of dogs and improvements in both the availability and quality of rabies vaccines have played major roles in the prevention of rabies.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation (Animal):

- Detection of rabies viral antigens by direct fluorescent antibody test performed on central nervous system tissue, **OR**
- Isolation of rabies virus in cell culture or an inoculated laboratory animal

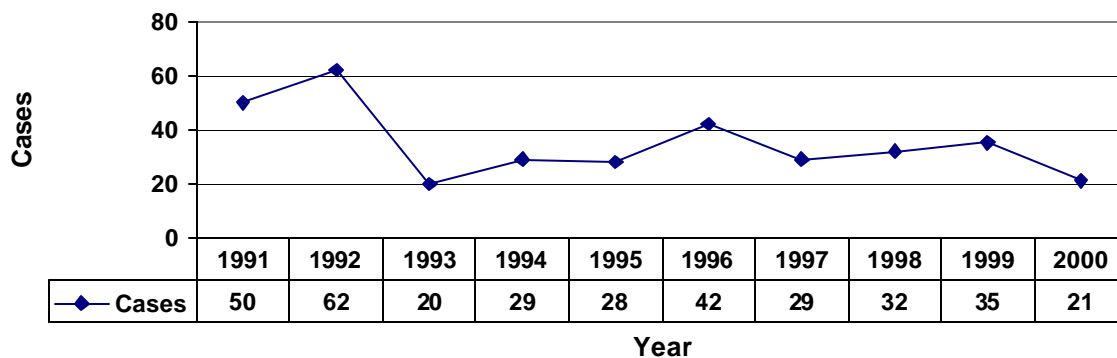
2000

Number of Animal Cases

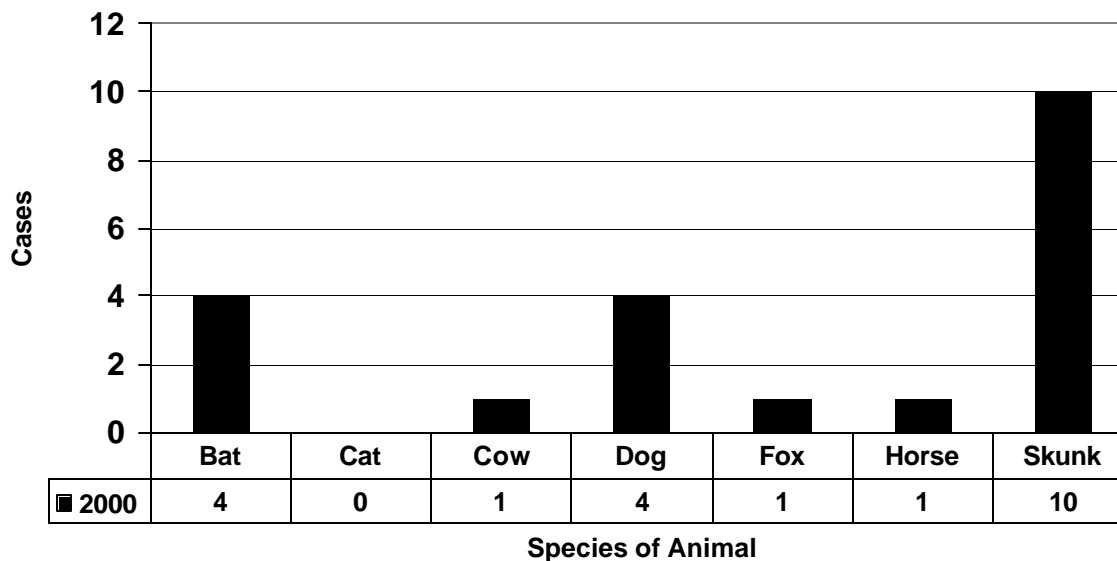
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¹Reports summarizing the clinical course and investigation of this case are published in *MMWR*, May 9, 1997, Vol. 46/ No. 18 and *Kentucky Epidemiologic Notes & Reports*, April, 1997.

Animal Rabies Cases, Kentucky 1991-2000



Animal Rabies Cases by Species Kentucky, 2000



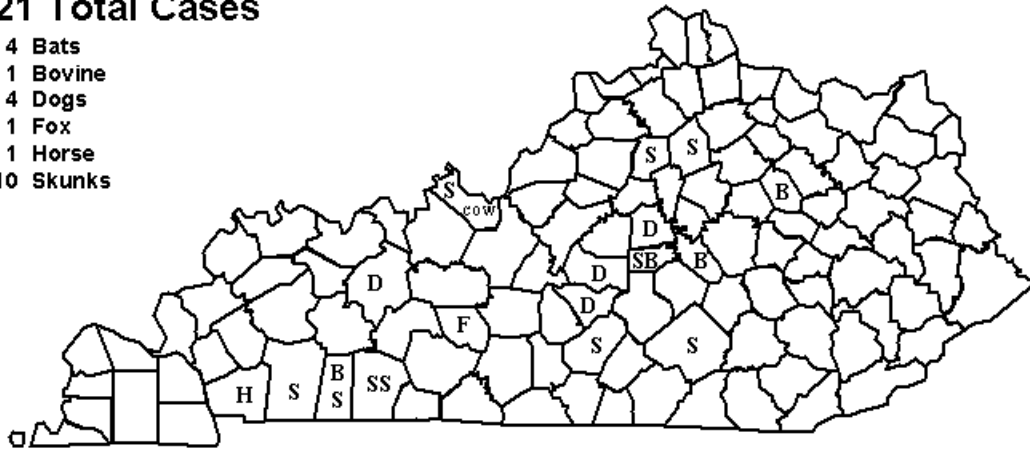
A total of 1314 animal specimens were received for rabies testing in 2000. There were 61 samples unsuitable for testing because of decomposition or traumatic damage to the brain tissue. Six of the positive cases (28.6% of positives) were in domestic animals, four of which were dogs. Three of these dogs were owned, but had not been vaccinated for rabies. To date the

raccoon strain of rabies has not been detected in Kentucky. The rabies laboratories tested 132 raccoons in 2000 and all were negative.

Rabies Cases in Kentucky - 2000

21 Total Cases

4 Bats
1 Bovine
4 Dogs
1 Fox
1 Horse
10 Skunks



Adair - 1 Skunk
Boyle - 1 Bat, 1 Skunk
Franklin - 1 Skunk
Christian - 1 Skunk
Edmonson - 1 Fox
Garrard - 1 Bat

Logan - 2 Skunks
Marion - 1 Dog
Meade - 1 Cow, 1 Skunk
Mercer - 1 Dog
Montgomery - 1 Bat

Ohio - 1 Dog
Pulaski - 1 Skunk
Scott - 1 Skunk
Taylor - 1 Dog
Todd - 1 Bat, 1 Skunk
Trigg - 1 Horse

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